



etc.  
magazine

# **THE ELUSIVE BARBARA BENO**

Why your fate is in her hands





#### FRONT COVER:

Illustration by **Zoheb Bhutia**.  
Silhouette of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges president, Barbara Beno, looking down upon City College of San Francisco.

#### BACK COVER:

Designed by **Daniel Acevedo**  
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Photo courtesy of Night-Fate-Stock

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#### ABOUT ETC. MAGAZINE:

Etc. magazine is an award-winning student publication. It is written, edited, photographed, illustrated, designed, produced and distributed by students enrolled in the Journalism program at City College of San Francisco.

The magazine is devoted to fair and objective reporting, which is achieved through extensive research, interviewing and observation. We try to cover the important issues facing the college, its students, faculty, staff, administration, and the surrounding community.

Any opinions expressed in the publication are labeled as such and represent the views of the students who authored them. Etc. does not purport to represent the views of the school's administration.

The magazine comes out twice a year—once in the fall and again in the spring.

# etc. magazine

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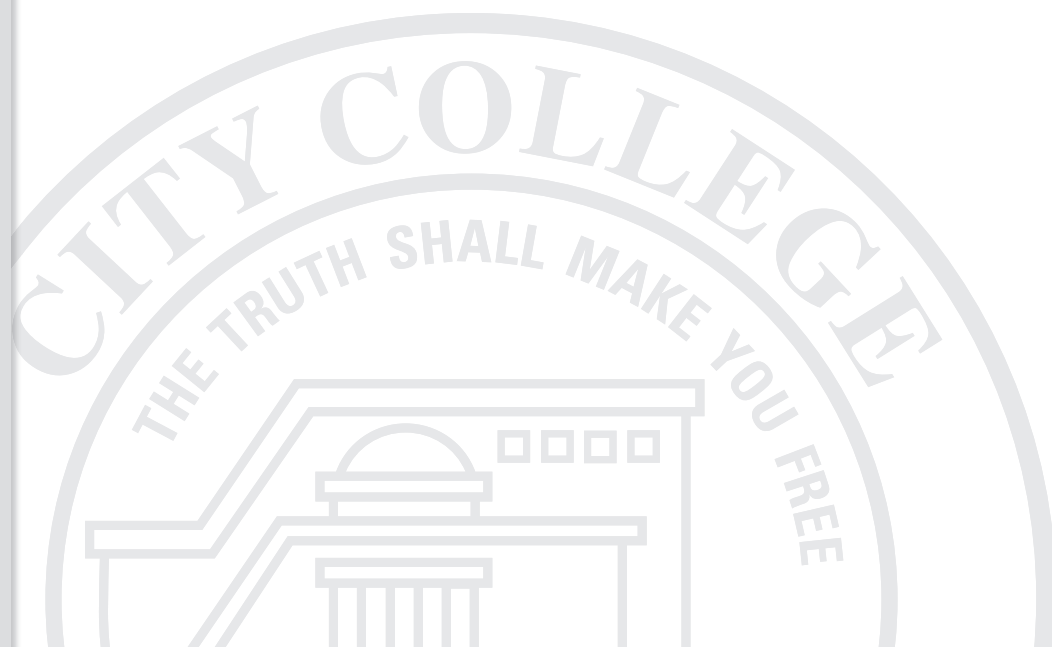
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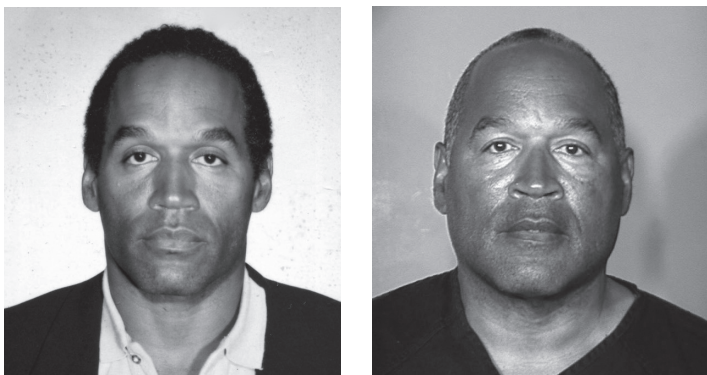


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# EDITOR'S NOTE

This fall edition of our magazine is a celebration of the students, faculty and staff at our school. Many face difficulties getting to campus, yet show up to create this award-winning magazine.

As a student collaboration under the guidance of a faculty adviser, we bring fresh perspectives from our fledgling careers as new writers, as international students writing in a second language, and from older adults returning to campus in search of new skills. We're both hopeful and fearful about our school's future and the resolution of its accreditation crisis.

Though our institution is still in a standoff with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges—and is threatened with closure—we remain proud of our history and confident in our future. City College is too critical to the greater San Francisco community and its culture to abandon. We hope you agree.

Our cover story continues our series on City College's accreditation crisis. We examine the performance of ACCJC's president in "The Elusive Barbara Beno," the central figure behind the sanctions on our school.

We open this issue with a first-person account by "The Night Cabbie," the formerly-anonymous columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle, whose nights are now spent in class.

In "Living to Learn, Learning to Live," we profile five perennial students who share a common thread as lifelong learners.

Next we feature Joe Ayoob in "Fumble Recovery," the former star quarterback on the Rams football team who, a decade later, set the world record for the longest paper airplane throw.

In "20 Years after 'The Trial of the Century'" we re-open the saga of O.J. Simpson, a City College student in the '60s—now a Lovelock prison inmate awaiting appeal.

Then we highlight our adjunct faculty in "City's Freeway Flyers," who juggle teaching classes between several college campuses.

Our dedicated staff spent months thinking, planning, researching, writing, editing and designing this issue. We grew from it and look forward to creating the next. But this depends upon our school remaining open and accredited, and the survival of our journalism department.

On our final page, we hope you'll be inspired by the upcoming spring's journalism classes, which offer direct opportunities to practice journalism on school and professional publications.

This magazine hugely benefits from our adviser's tireless guidance, generous help from our lab tech, the open doors of an off-campus Wi-Fi cafe, and our partnership with the design department. We hope you enjoy our work.

— Michaela Payne, editor

# ETC. AWARDS

Etc. Magazine received 11 awards at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges conference in Los Angeles last year, including recognition for General Excellence.

The publication received four first-place and four second-place awards; plus one third-place and a fourth-place award.

One of the standouts in last year's competition was illustrator Brian Lei, who took both first and second place for his powerful front-page cover and inside story illustrations of local politicians refusing to speak on behalf of City College during its accreditation crisis ("Who will speak for City?" / Fall 2013).

In the Magazine Opinion category, Greg Zeman took first place for his piece on the Lumina Foundation's connection to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges ("Following the Lumina-ALEC Two-Step" / Fall 2013).

Leith Mahoney-Maver received first place for her profile story ("Sir Francis Drake Doorman" / Fall 2013), about alumnus Tom Sweeney, the most photographed person in San Francisco.

In the webcast broadcast news category, students from the broadcast department's IDTV staff collaborated with the journalism department's magazine staff on their first-place entry on City College's accreditation crisis. The production team included George Koster, Quintin Chisolm, Kelley Lawrence, Tobias Levene, Sherae Ann Honeycutt and Matias Godinez ("What if City College closed?" / Spring 2013 / available online at etc-magazine.com)

Devin Holt and Melody Parker took second-place for their insightful news feature ("What if City closed?" / Spring 2013).

Jacob Davis took second place in the magazine opinion category for his first-person revelations about the war in Iraq ("A decade in the shadow of Iraq" / Spring 2013).

Photographer Khaled Sayed took second place in the photo category and third place for his photo essay on Egypt's street protests last year ("Turmoil in Egypt" / Fall 2013).

Graphic design student Christina Gonzalez won second place for her colorful three-dimensional back page Etc. Magazine promotional ad (Spring 2013).

Cesar Sanchez received fourth-place recognition for his layout and design of the Fall 2013 issue of the magazine.

"Our students consistently compete at the highest level in state competitions year after year, which speaks to their skills and the quality of education that they receive here," says Tom Graham, journalism instructor and adviser to Etc. Magazine.







Illustration by Zoheb Bhutta

▲ Emil Lawrence returned to City College after writing *The Night Cabbie* column first for *The Examiner*, and then for *The Chronicle*, from 1996 to 2004.

## FIRST-PERSON

# CONFESSIONS OF THE NIGHT CABBIE

**Former taxi-driving columnist  
an evening class aficionado**

*By Emil Lawrence*

After I was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1972, I enrolled at City College. Two years later, I graduated with an associate degree in general studies and transferred to San Francisco State University, where I completed a double major in business/world finance, and

philosophy. Two years later I completed my masters in world corporate finance at State.

With six years of college and three degrees under my belt, including a year of electrical engineering school in the Navy, I never dreamed that I would come back to City College in 2003 at the age of 56.

I came back for one reason – to get a real job. I had a job as a taxi driver but it did not pay much.

In 2003, I could not find professional work with real pay. I had mailed out 1,000 resumes, with no results.

So I came back to City College to retrain. This was my new reality. I needed to update my accounting, computer, and general business skills. In the federally regulated world of investments, I had four govern-

ment licenses, which enabled me to sell U.S. government certified investment products.

After many jobs – as a Pinkerton security guard and in imports/exports, commodity, derivatives, and securities sales – I never found a career that really had “lifetime-secured-income.”

After completing my academic education, and 35 years of job experience, I became a taxi driver. I used taxis all of my life, but had never imagined driving one.

And I never dreamed I would write about it for eight years in a column called “The Night Cabbie” for the San Francisco Examiner and the Chronicle.

\* \* \*



I graduated from Aberdeen High School, in Aberdeen, Maryland with Michael Griffin, the man President George W. Bush appointed to head NASA. While I was at City College, Griffin had risen to the rank of Air Force general. Cal Ripken, “The Iron Man” of baseball, was another graduate.

In my career, the timing of events has always been problematic. Ten days before my 19th birthday, I got drafted. My dad was a U.S. Army colonel in Saigon and my younger brother was a Navy petty officer, second class based in Subic Bay. Technically, I didn’t have to go to Vietnam.

When I was inducted in ’67, I checked with a Navy recruiter because I wanted to be a sailor, not a grunt. But every draftee was signing up for the Navy, so I was placed on a waiting list. When I got the call, the recruiter told me over the phone, “Listen up, lad. We have one opening Saturday, and if you show up by 5 a.m., you will be in this man’s Navy by 6. Do you read me?”

War protesters were demonstrating in the streets. Night after night, the news featured soldiers being blown up. More than 11,000 of our troops had died that year. But soon I would be defending the nation – in the North Atlantic.

The Navy prepared me for City College. They trained me how to study. As a sailor, I went through a Basic Electronics Electricity Program (BEEP) for six weeks. I learned how to do circuit board arithmetic. Then, I spent a year in engineering school and became an interior communications technician.

After two weeks of Motion Picture Operators school, I became the ship’s entertainment officer. I showed the movies onboard. Back then, we used a 16mm film projector.

Eighteen months later, in the North Atlantic, I was aboard a jumbo oiler used for ship-to-ship refueling at sea. There we played cat and mouse games with the Russians. We were part of an operation searching for the USS Scorpion, a nuclear submarine that went missing in 1968. About 100 sailors were lost. Bits and pieces were later found scattered over the Atlantic floor.

I made many trips to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the place the U.S. Navy calls “Gitmo.” Today, it’s where suspected terrorists are detained.

For my Navy service, I received the National Defense pin and the Jordanian Crisis pin. But more importantly, I got an



Photo by Armando Andres

▲ Emil Lawrence, the Night Cabbie, owns and operates three taxicabs. He was a candidate for mayor of San Francisco in 2011.

honorable discharge, which qualified me for the GI Bill. My college tuition would be covered for 60 months – with full medical coverage for the rest of my life.

\* \* \*

I still remember that first year at City College in 1972.

I was 23, living along the Lower Great Highway.

It was early in the morning, and I had just completed my Geology 101 final. I was standing outside the Science Building next to the motorcycle parking spaces when I noticed my brand new Honda 450 was gone. The bike was near the mosaic that reads: “Give me a base and I move the world.”

As a student and vet I was part of CREEP, the Committee to Re-elect the President of the United States. Richard Nixon said he was going to end the war in Vietnam and had just raised GI benefits – substantially.

There were protests on campus and Watergate was just around the corner.

\* \* \*

Seven years later, with my master’s in finance, I entered the import export business with two partners. We imported stuff from India, Israel, Taiwan, South Africa and Europe.

A year after the import business hit a wall, I became a night-time Pinkerton detective (security guard), where I made chump change. When I wasn’t at work or asleep, I checked the classifieds in the Chronicle and Examiner.

Soon I was making up to \$20,000 a month at Lloyd Carr, selling sugar, coffee, rubber and cocoa options on the London Options Exchange.

This was not chump change, and they paid us in cash. Every Friday night was “cake and juice night” (pizza and beer) until 8 p.m., when we pulled our new clients’ money in. For top producers, hookers were brought into our fourth floor office in the Financial District. These London Commodity Options heroes pushed desks together and invited hookers to crawl over the top producers and give them blow jobs in front of the troops.

When the FBI closed the firm for securities fraud, I was looking for work, again.

Soon, in the ’90s, my own firm was developing problems. And my wife wanted a divorce. When I ran out of money, she ran out of love.

At the same time, with these financial problems, I could no longer pay my employees, my office and apartment rent. So, I lay awake nights looking at the ceiling.

I called Larry Sturgis, an old friend who was a taxi driver for Veterans Cab Company. He drove me around the city one Friday night to show me how you make it as a taxi driver.

\* \* \*

In this city, you could wait two hours for a bus, but 10 minutes was too long for a taxi. In the taxi job, I never knew what was going to happen, or what I was going



to make. Each evening rolled out like any other, and then “bang,” things happened.

One evening, when I first became a taxi driver, I was rolling down Folsom Street thinking about the young hookers that I met, when I pulled up to the curb and a well-dressed dude fell into the cab. He was in his 40s, wearing the full boat of executive wear – a two-grand Hugo Boss suit, \$300 Murphy shoes, and a \$500 Ralph Lauren briefcase. Over all of this, he also had a \$400 London Fog “Humphrey Bogart” trench coat.

But when I rolled back into the street, I sensed there was a problem. Heading north, I looked into the rear view. The dude gave me a destination, but no address. So, rolling north to Market Street, I asked, “Mister, what is the address?”

Again there was no answer. I scanned the rearview again, but saw he was passed out. This fare was now a red alert.

I have absolutely no patience for this sort of thing. So I stopped the cab, grabbed the dude by the coat and valise, and pulled him from the car. I noticed the back seat was wet because he peed. I laid him down on the sidewalk. He had money, but I did not want it. Soon, I rolled out, but saw him still lying there.

As the Night Cabbie, I worked for seven or eight taxi companies and wrote more than 200 columns. I worked at night and slept during the day. My life was inverted.

That was before the digital transportation network companies started.

While writing the “Night Cabbie,” column for Hearst, I worked the city and the San Francisco Airport. From SFO, I could tell you who comes to America and leaves. The CEO of Oracle Computers, Larry Ellison brings in thousands of engineers from India, many of whom graduated from the Indian Institutes of Technology. I know because I have transported many of them to their offices in Silicon Valley.

\* \* \*

According to a story in the New York Times, 15 percent of America’s taxi drivers have college degrees. We’re a mixed bag. Most of us have fallen into the taxi business by default.

I entered the business only after other jobs disappeared.

In 1996, after driving a Veteran’s taxi for a few months, I sent letters to the editors of the San Francisco Examiner and the Chronicle. I told them I had all of these

stories going through my head that would make for a great column.

Two days later, the Examiner’s Executive Editor Phil Bronstein called me, and the “Night Cabbie” was born. The column went from the Examiner to the Chronicle when the Hearst Corporation bought that paper. The column took off slowly, but became a big shocking hit. I did stories on Willie Brown, Harry Denton, Herb Caen, Harry DeWitt, and others, including Sharon Stone.

Bronstein was intrigued with several columns I wrote about “Basic Instinct” star Sharon Stone being in North Beach without a male companion. After reading and editing my column, he met and married Stone. He never thanked me for the introduction. I knew the marriage wouldn’t last.

Bronstein was blown away with the success of the column, but he could not give me a real raise.

In 2003, after I discontinued the column, I returned to City College, where I started a microcomputer accounting certificate, and then completed it along with a certificate in office technology.

Then, I completed certificates in

California real estate and forensic criminal evidence.

Right now I am two courses short of completing the paralegal certificate.

During the past 11 years, I have attempted 216 units and completed 196 with a 3.0.

Monday through Thursday, City College is home base and my office. This semester, I’m taking nine units – in computers, criminal investigation and magazine writing. I eat one meal a day at the college Culinary Institute three times a week. I use Batmale Hall’s computers and various open classrooms to study until 9 p.m.

When I came back to City College a decade ago – after dropping the Night Cabbie column – I walked up to the side of the Science Building, where my motorcycle was stolen 40 years ago. And once again, I was concerned about my financial future.

But today, with a couple of taxis and a San Francisco taxi medallion, along with associate certificates in paralegal, real estate, and tax preparation from City College, I have a multitude of options. I’m planning the last career of my life. □



Photo by James Fenucci

▲ Lawrence, who has completed several certificate programs at City College, still takes night classes.



Illustration by Zoheb Bhutia

# LIVING TO LEARN, LEARNING TO LIVE

Many believe it should be a never-ending process

By Cindie Meyer

Most colleges and universities encourage lifelong learning.

For thousands of City College's insatiable learners, whose primary goal is educational development, taking classes has become a way of life.

Non-credit courses, which attract lifelong learners, are offered in 34 subjects. In addition, 500 students are enrolled in the Continuing Education program.

The 2,000 lifelong learners taking credit classes here represent 5 percent of the college's students, and are at risk of being excluded. Budget cuts and education reform efforts have threatened these course offerings.

Although City College's vision statement

emphasizes it "is committed to lifelong educational opportunities for all," its revised mission statement now emphasizes only degree attainment, transferring to baccalaureate institutions, and basic skills such as English as a Second Language.

The shift away from lifelong learning has alarmed educators and the community.

It doesn't take a genius to know its value, but Einstein did.

"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death," he said.

Poet W.B. Yeats knew it, too.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire," he wrote.

Lifelong learners here include seniors, high schoolers, faculty and staff. You have them in your class. They're the smart ones.

A representative sample of City College's prodigious lifelong learners includes Dave Whitaker, Khin Thiri Nandar Soe, Dennis Mullen, Susan Boeckmann and Jim Wong. Collectively they have completed nearly 600 units.

Each of them are attracted to lifelong learning for different reasons.



Photo by Eleanora Kitpousong

▲ Dennis Mullen, who teaches business, has taken more than 70 classes as a City College student.



For Whitaker, 77, who has been taking classes at City College for more than a decade, it's a dance between teacher and learner. With more than 160 units to his credit, the student-poet-activist doesn't have a degree because he doesn't want one.

"It's not about the grades... Love to learn, learn to love," he said. "It never ends."

For Thiri Nandar Soe, a 36-year-old Burmese immigrant, it's about addressing political oppression. A Political Science major since 2001, Thiri Nandar Soe has accumulated about 80 units. She founded the Burmese Library at the Multicultural Center, runs the "Each One Teach One" program, and tries to raise consciousness about the political and social issues in her country.

For Mullen, 60, it's a way to find balance and harmony. A former Internal Revenue Service auditor, and an instructor in the Business Department here since 2001, Mullen takes two classes a semester. During the past 20 years, he has accumulated 191 units in music, dance, computer science, business, and six foreign languages.

For Boeckmann, 42, lifelong learning classes offer her an alternative to watching TV. Taking classes in video editing helped her land a staff position in the Broadcast Department. Since she enrolled at City College in 1997, she has completed more than 70 courses (147 units).

For Wong, 58, City College has been home since the '70s, when classes were free. Over the years, he has completed 79 units

here. The John Adams campus counselor said it's a way to keep up with politics, current events and technology. He hopes to one day become a history teacher. His classmates often mistake him for one already.

\* \* \*

Dave Whitaker, better known as "Diamond Dave," decided to go back to school after listening to "The Experience Corps" on KPFA. The program encouraged seniors to continue their education. Whitaker chose City College because some of his punk rock friends were involved with the Ocean Campus Anarchist Library.

Whitaker is a fixture at most of the poetry and political events throughout the Bay Area. On Friday afternoons he hosts an open mike at Mutiny Radio, a non-profit community radio station in the Mission District. He is inspired by Rumi's poetry and often reads it during his radio program. He hangs out at Revolution Café, kitty-corner to the Mission Campus on Bartlett, where he reads, listens to music and engages in conversation.

The lifelong learner values his library card more than money. He has read most of the classics— from poet Williams Burroughs to philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre. In fact, he met the latter in the '60s when he was in Paris.

"I didn't know what to say, I was too young," he said. He described the middle-aged Frenchman as "a big toad, with an eye going that way and another eye going



Photo courtesy of Stanford Human Rights Education Initiative

▲ Khin Thiri Nandar Soe, a Burmese student and activist, won the Stanford Human Rights Education Initiative's "Outstanding Student Project Award" in 2012.

that way."

A half-century later, Whitaker is still learning, "at City, in the City, on the planet and in the streets," he says in a sing-song voice, while pushing home the point with his trademark hand gesture.

For City College's most recognizable beatnik, lifelong learning is a part of being a real revolutionary.

"The dancing free, the freewheeling, the free-styling, this means lifelong learning," he said, searching for his next metaphor.

City College gives Whitaker a chance to pursue subjects in a formal setting. He describes the school as a place where teachers come not so much for the money, but because they want to.

"That's where learning is offered," he said.

This semester Whitaker is taking three courses— "The Bible as Literature," "Women and Film," and "Rhetoric of Popular Culture."

He took the Bible class because he's interested in history and literature. He doesn't believe in religion.

"Jesus Christ is not God," he says, matter of factly. "He was a fellow human being... and a great teacher who taught us to love one another."



Photo by Eleanora Kitpowsong

▲ Pirate radio host, poet, protestor and perennial student "Diamond Dave" Whitaker recently turned 77.



Politically astute, Whitaker frequently attends protest marches, meetings, and spreads the word. He's not optimistic about the college's future.

"The accreditation crisis is a distraction, they are not gonna take it away," he said. "But it is not the same school, they are dismantling it."

\* \* \*

In Burma, Khin Thiri Nandar Soe was a political activist. Because of her country's long-running unresolved civil wars, she left her country and received political asylum in the United States in 1998.

Thiri Nandar Soe has completed 79 units at City College since 2001.

She teaches a free, non-credit meditation class on Fridays at the Women's Resource Center on the main campus.

Outside of the classroom, she advocates for political change in Burma, and is involved in fundraising efforts for homeless shelters and humanitarian aid.

She finds that raising political awareness on campus can be challenging. Most Americans don't even know where Burma is.

She has a hard time relating to many Burmese students who come from wealthy families with government ties.

Last year, a group of Burmese students confronted her about her political views.

"I was having lunch at the Women's Resource Center and they threatened to shut down the Burmese Library."

Thiri Nandar Soe considers herself a child of the Women's Studies and Political Science departments. She describes City College as her "sacred ground." She says she respects the knowledge and wisdom of her professors.

For one of her Women's Studies courses, each student had to write a piece about themselves. At the end of the semester, their stories were published as a collection.

"It is such an important class," she said, "[because of] the way it approaches education."

A place where students could share and validate their struggles, the course was a healing experience.

Her piece won the Stanford Human Rights Education Initiative's "Outstanding Student Project Award" in 2012.

As a lifelong learner, Thiri Nandar Soe is concerned about the new restrictions on class repeatability. Now students can't take most classes more than twice, which prevents her from completing classes she's gotten W's in.

Traumatized by her past, she finds most of her writing assignments a challenge. She was raised in a family of writers, poets, journalists—many of whom had been tortured and imprisoned in Burma.

The "W" that sometimes appears on her transcripts may be interpreted as a deficiency, but for her it is a symbol of effort... and courage.

\* \* \*

With a bachelor's and a master's degree from UC Berkeley and another bachelor's from San Jose State, Dennis Mullen knows the value of education.

Every June for the past 15 years, the City College business instructor flies to Saint Petersburg, Russia. As a former ballet teacher and dancer, he never misses the annual Vaganova International Method Conference, at the Vaganova Ballet Academy, where ballet teaching methods are discussed and demonstrated by professionals.

"It impacts my own teaching," the former IRS auditor said. "I want to have unity and harmony in my lesson plans, I want to demonstrate things clearly."

It also helps him to understand how students learn and retain information. Mullen applies what he learns from the



Photo by Ekevara Kitpowsong

▲ Susan Boeckmann shows-off one of the stories she wrote and photographed for *Etc. Magazine*. She later became editor of the student publication.



Ballet Academy in his classroom.

"[At City College] you have the opportunity to teach how you believe, you are free to choose your own methods to make sure the students are learning," he said.

As an instructor, he wants to train the next generation of entrepreneurs—to work with a sense of social responsibility.

"If you want to help your community, you need profit, [you need to] combine wealth and capital to do good work," he said.

Like many teachers at City College, Mullen is also a student. Twenty years ago, he enrolled in Franz Enciso's piano class here to relieve the stress of his IRS job.

"It calmed me down... and helped me to organize my mind," he said.

He also learned French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, and some Mandarin Chinese here.

This semester he is taking Renée Morel's "History of the French Language" course, which initially was cut because of lack of enrollment, then turned into a Continuing Education course. Mullen is learning several French dialects not taught elsewhere.

He believes that whatever you learn helps you better understand the world.

"My feeling is that you can always learn something, to be more balanced and informed," he said.

When he started teaching at City College, he didn't know how to create a PowerPoint presentation. He learned to use technology by taking classes in computer networking and information technology. Mullen has taken about 70 classes.

"They can't kick me out, because there is always room in the classes I'm taking," he says.

Students like Mullen help enrollment and enrich the classroom experience. Education reforms forced by the accreditation crisis, however, would jeopardize lifelong learning opportunities here and on other campuses throughout the state.

The restrictions on repeatability of classes don't make sense to him. When he took ballet and contemporary dance classes through the Physical Education Department, he encountered people trying to stay fit.

To benefit from some classes, he says, "you need to do them over and over again, you need repeatability."

\* \* \*

Susan Boeckmann, who has a bachelor's degree in Comparative Religion from Carleton College in Minnesota, took her



Photo by Ekevana Kitpowsong

▲ School Counselor Jim Wong takes evening classes after finishing his work at the John Adams campus.

first classes here in Film and Broadcasting 20 years ago.

Four years later, after an internship in the department, she was hired as a video producer and editor. As a staff member, one of her perks enables her to waive her tuition fees. She takes two or three classes a semester for fun and to further her knowledge.

By working and learning here, City College is a large part of her life.

"I walked my way through different departments," said the Broadcast Department video editor.

"It's a dream job," she said. "I walk out of my office and go to class... I get to learn about things I'd never have done, like singing or writing for a magazine."

Through the Art Department, she's taken drawing, design and sculpture. She also took most of the journalism classes here, and worked her way up to editor of Etc. magazine.

"I don't want to be someone who just goes home and watches TV," Boeckmann said.

\* \* \*

James Wong, a counselor at the John Adams Campus, started his studies at City College in the '70s.

"In high school, I was never a good student," Wong said. "Then I showed up at City College and started to get A's and B's. The teachers were supportive, they even made

me talk in class."

After earning a bachelor's degree in Public Administration at UC Santa Barbara, he completed two master's degrees—one in Educational Psychology at USF, and another in Divinity at San Francisco Theological Seminary. But the former Presbyterian Minister didn't stop there.

Ten years ago, he was going for his third master's degree—in Political Science—when he was hired as a counselor here.

In his spare time, Wong takes at least one class a semester.

"I wanted to write better, so I took journalism classes," said the counselor, who would like to retire as an American History instructor.

It's a challenge keeping up with current events and technology, he said, noting that every 10 years information turns over and knowledge changes.

When he started here, no one used personal computers—you couldn't buy one.

"Everyone should be a lifelong learner," he advises, "for professional reasons or just to be a better citizen."

"The beauty of City College is that it gives many second chances. It's a place where you can remake yourself," Wong said.

"I believe this is what America is about."

□





Photo by James Fanucci

▲ Joe Ayoob – the former All-American quarterback for the City College Rams – is a sales manager at Anchor Brewery.

# FUMBLE RECOVERY

**After quarterback Joe Ayoob led our Rams to a national championship, he had to scramble for a new career**

*By Steve Fishman*

A decade has passed since 30-year-old Joe Ayoob played football for City College.

The junior college quarterback, known for his throwing arm, recently set a world record – but not in football. Guinness lists him as the all-time best paper airplane thrower. He threw one farther than most quarterbacks can throw a football.

As he pulls up to Rams Stadium parking lot in his new black Ford F-150, the former All-American quarterback flashes his

characteristic grin.

Jimmy Collins fist bumps his old teammate when he meets him on the field. The two were roommates during their playing days here. In July, the Rams quarterbacks coach will be one of Ayoob's groomsmen.

Collins, who was Ayoob's understudy at City, says Joe was one of the nation's best junior college quarterbacks.

"He was distinctive, a great leader, performed in big games, and was a great mentor for younger quarterbacks like me."

As quarterback for the Rams in 2003 and 2004, Ayoob led his team to two state championships, and a national championship. His win-loss record was 23 and 1.

In 2004, he was named Offensive Player of the Year by the Junior College Athletic Bureau, and the California Community College Football Coaches Association.

By completing 61 percent of his passes, throwing for 3,679 yards and 35 touchdowns that year, he was also named First Team Junior College All-American.

"Joe was one of the two or three best quarterbacks I've ever coached," said George

Rush, who's coached the Rams for 38 years.

"There were better runners, better passers, but he was the whole package. He just had that cool. When it was crunch time, he'd have the ball, and it would just work. Everyone wanted to play for Joe."

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Even in high school, Ayoob was a standout.

He played varsity football, baseball and basketball for Terra Linda High School in San Rafael. He dreamed of playing college basketball, like his father did at Clemson. But at 6-3 and 223 pounds, Ayoob realized he was better built for football.

City College's offensive coordinator Dan Hayes recruited Ayoob, who was a classmate of his daughter's. Hayes was impressed with the young quarterback after watching him play at one of their high school games.

Ayoob's team won back-to-back North Coast section championships, and he set school records at Terra Linda that still stand today.

While playing varsity, he met his future fiancée Ashley Sanchez, who was head cheerleader at Terra Linda. They became good



friends. She wore his jersey during half-time performances. Their classmates saw they made a good team – and voted them Homecoming King and Queen.

“He told me in high school that we’d end up getting married,” Sanchez said.

They started dating when Ayooob was at City College and she was at UC Berkeley. Sanchez tutored him in physics. Soon, he joined her at Cal.

After Ayooob’s successes in high school and here at City College, he played for the Golden Bears.

Cal had great expectations of Ayooob, who was ranked as the No. 2 Junior College recruit in America in 2004 by SuperPrep and 15th overall nationally by Rivals.com. The Bears needed a quarterback to help them improve their No. 9 national ranking.

Despite offers from Oregon State, Michigan State, and North Carolina State, Ayooob chose Cal for its academics.

His decision was also influenced by Cal’s head coach, Jeff Tedford, who had previously coached six quarterbacks who were drafted to play in the NFL.

Two of Ayooob’s City College teammates – linebacker Desmond Bishop and wide receiver Lavelle Hawkins – were also going to play for Cal.

Ayooob thought they would tear up Berkeley’s Memorial Stadium, like they did at City College’s Rams Stadium.

At the beginning of Cal’s 2005 season, sophomore Nate Longshore started at quarterback. But Ayooob didn’t sit on the sidelines very long. Late in the first half of the first game against Sacramento State, Longshore was sacked and broke his leg, which ended his season.

When Ayooob got his first chance to play, he threw 10 straight incomplete passes.

ESPN reported: “Ayooob took over but looked comically bad, with most of his passes sailing over the heads of his receivers.”

Cal’s running back, Marshawn Lynch, helped the Bears route Sac State 41-3. (Lynch also led the Seattle Seahawks to a Super Bowl victory last season.)

Despite Ayooob’s poor first performance, he turned things around. He led Cal to five straight wins and a No. 10 national ranking.

Then they dropped two straight in close games they should have won against UCLA (47-40) and Oregon State (23-20). At Memorial Stadium, OSU intercepted his passes twice in front of the home crowd.

ESPN was quick to criticize again: “Ayooob struggled to make the simplest completions against one of the nations worst press defenses.”

The pressure of playing Pac-10 football was mounting.

The following game, Cal managed to beat Washington State 42-38 at home. But the

next two games were disastrous – the worst of Ayooob’s college career – and his most haunting memory.

In a nationally televised loss at the University of Oregon, Ayooob threw three interceptions, and went 10-26 with only 88 yards passing. In overtime, he threw three straight incomplete passes. On the final fourth down play, he hurried the pass and the ball sailed over the tight end’s head near the endzone.

It got worse. In the next game, No. 1 ranked USC rolled to a 35-10 victory in front of 70,000 fans at Berkeley’s Memorial Stadium. After throwing four interceptions, Ayooob was benched. He never started another game.

“It was pretty disappointing. Anyone who plays Division I football has dreams of playing at the next level,” he said.

“Coach Tedford wanted to turn me into something I was not,” he said. “He changed the way I threw. I felt it wasn’t the right thing for me.

“I wish I’d spoken up. It took me three years to gain my confidence back as a thrower.”

Coach Rush said Ayooob was mismanaged at Cal.

“Joe had his own style of throwing. In trying to change his throwing motion, (Coach Tedford) took all of his confidence away... everything that made him a good quarterback,” Rush said. “They tried to make him a textbook quarterback, instead of the guy he was.”

Ayooob has no regrets, though. He graduated from Cal in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in Social Welfare.

“I’m glad I stayed close to home, and earned a degree from one of the best academic institutions in the country.”

The following summer he tried out for the Kansas City Chiefs but did not make the team.

He ended up signing with the Central Valley Coyotes, a now defunct Arena Football League team.

He played Arena League football for two years before trading in his cleats for a microphone.

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In 2012, he teamed up with KRON-TV 4 sports anchor Vern Glenn as the color commentator for Arena Football League games.

Glenn introduced Ayooob to John Collins, a paper airplane design expert who was looking for someone to break the world



Photo by Paris Ellis

▲ Ayooob holds the Guinness World record for throwing a paper airplane 75 yards.





▲ *As quarterback for the Rams in 2003 and 2004, Joe Ayoob led his team to two state championships and a national championship.*

record for indoor throwing. He had the design but needed a thrower.

Collins had previously worked with former Cal quarterback Mike Pawlawski, whose throwing motion was too aggressive for paper airplanes.

Pawlawski whipped his arm so hard he actually ripped the airplane in half, Collins recalled.

Ayoob's motion, however, had much more finesse.

"I'd worked with a couple quarterbacks before I found Joe," Collins said. "He's a big paper airplane fan to begin with, plus, he's got one of those magic arms."

"Joe's arm strength, control and precision was pretty close to perfect."

Collins, known as "The Paper Airplane Guy," offered \$1,000 to anyone who could help him break the record. For Ayoob, the money wasn't the incentive.

They tested paper airplane designs for 18 months, scouting locations up and down California. From Virgin Galactic's Mojave Desert spaceship hangar, to Sacramento's

McClellan Air Force Base hangar that now houses Fry's Electronics' huge Boeing 747.

Two years ago in Sacramento, Ayoob shattered the Guinness World Record for longest indoor paper airplane throw by more than 18 feet.

He threw it the entire length of the hangar – 226 feet, 10 inches. Or 75.61 yards – three quarters of a football field. That's farther than professional quarterbacks can throw a football.

Conan O'Brien invited Ayoob and Collins onto the Tonight Show, where "The Paper Airplane Guy" demonstrated his origami-inspired creations.

One plane's wings flapped like a bird and several boomeranged back to the stage. When Collins threw the record breaker into the audience, everyone clamored for it as a souvenir.

Conan O'Brien's throws flopped, but his feigned disappointment got a big laugh. Collins' technical explanations flew over O'Brien's head. The video of Ayoob's record throw, which was shown during the

segment, has more than 3.6 million views on YouTube.

\* \* \*

Ayoob's paper airplane job was a departure from his career at Anchor Brewery. Hired five years ago by his former junior varsity baseball coach at Terra Linda High School, he quickly advanced from brewery tour guide to sales, and he is now the Northern California sales manager in charge of Anchor's distribution from Stockton to Eureka.

He lives with his parents in Marin's Lucas Valley, where he's able to save money for his upcoming wedding.

His fiancée, Ashley Sanchez, lives near by and teaches history at San Rafael High School and coaches the dance team at Marin Catholic.

They plan to marry in Sonoma in July. "I'm looking forward to getting married and starting a family," Ayoob said. "We'd like to buy a house in Marin, near our parents."

Both families witnessed Ayoob's successes and struggles.





Photo by Paris Ellis

“He handled it better than I did,” said Joe Sr. “He was disappointed of course, it was his dream to play beyond (Division I), but it just didn’t work out.”

His son moved on pretty quickly after his disappointing junior year, and stayed with the team through the following season. But he saw little action his senior year. Joe Sr. said his son could see the writing on the wall.

“Cal was looking for another Aaron Rodgers, and Joe was not another Aaron Rodgers,” he said. “But I think he absolutely had the talent.”

In retrospect, Berkeley’s Jeff Tedford probably wasn’t the right coach for Ayoob.

“He’ll always been a winner in my book,” his dad said. “He handled adversity very well. Sportswriters were not very nice to him, and he behaved like a champion.”

Ashley Sanchez recognized that in her fiancé, too.

“The pressure he was under was immense,” she recalls. “He handled it really well, even though his peers would say nasty things to him while we were walking to class.”

She said he worried more about the way his detractors were upsetting his friends and family.

“I think he did really well considering for all the pressure,” she said. “He didn’t talk about it for a while, but he’s really opened up in the past few years.”

Professional football was a childhood dream that almost became reality for Joe Ayoob.

But dreams seldom become reality, especially in professional football, where less than 2 percent of college football players go on to play in the NFL.

“Obviously my career at Cal was pretty disappointing,” Ayoob said. “Anyone who gets to that level of football has aspirations of getting to the NFL.”

“It just takes a little bit of time to gain perspective, and once you’ve had time to reflect on your experiences and can look back on it objectively, you can say what I did was really cool. I’ve experienced things that most others have not.” □

## JOE AYOOB AT A GLANCE

- ▶ With Joe Ayoob as quarterback, the City College Rams won the national title in 2003 and the state title in 2004.
- ▶ During the two years he was on the team, the Rams went 23-1 and played for the national championship both years.
- ▶ Ayoob’s stats earned him First Team Junior College All-American. He completed 61 percent of his passes, and threw for 3,679 yards and 35 touchdowns.
- ▶ After throwing a specially designed paper airplane 75.61 yards, Guinness recognized Ayoob in 2012 as the world record holder.
- ▶ To view the video of Ayoob’s record-breaking paper airplane throw visit: [thepaperairplaneguy.com](http://thepaperairplaneguy.com)
- ▶ To see the Conan O’Brien video interview, enter: “The Paper Airplane Guy John Collins” on [teamcoco.com](http://teamcoco.com)



# THE ELUSIVE BARBARA BENO

## Your fate is in her hands

By Mary Strobe, Michaela Payne  
and Arami Reyes

“No narrative would be complete without a worthy villain, and we have one here. Her name is Dr. Barbara Beno.”

That’s what Adam Westman wrote about the person in charge of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges back in 2009 on the California Teacher’s Association website. At the time, he was president of the Rio Hondo College Faculty Association and his college was going through an accreditation crisis of its own.

Over the past five years, Beno’s leadership of the ACCJC has become the subject of increasingly harsh criticism. Her detractors have accused her accreditation agency of:

- ▶ Disproportionate sanctioning of colleges
- ▶ Conflict of interest
- ▶ Failure to follow federal guidelines
- ▶ Lack of transparency and accountability
- ▶ Unwillingness to cooperate with elected officials and the media
- ▶ Connections with powerful advocacy organizations

As the person in charge of the accreditation process for the state’s 112 community colleges, the past two years have been particularly brutal for Beno – and for City College of San Francisco, the place her commission is threatening to shut down.

Beno is no stranger to controversy. She has been roundly criticized by students, faculty, and administrators, as well as state and federal representatives since 2001, when she took over as president of the ACCJC.

Now, on the hot seat in a lawsuit that is causing her actions to be even more closely scrutinized, calls for her resignation have begun to surface.

Assemblyman Phil Ting, whose district includes City College’s main campus, feels



Illustration by Zohab Bhutta

steps must be taken to protect the college.

“Beno should resign,” he told *Etc.* magazine. “The ACCJC organization has inconsistently imposed accreditation standards and their leadership should be changed.”

Congresswoman Jackie Speier, who has been actively involved in the fight to save City College, knows the impact that its closure would have upon her district. She and Ting have come to the same conclusion.

“Barbara Beno should resign,” Speier told *Etc.* “She has failed to follow federal rules on multiple occasions, and cannot be allowed to arbitrarily redefine the rules to disadvantage community colleges that don’t agree with her on various subjects.”

Tim Killikelly, president of AFT 2121, the local teachers’ union, said Beno’s leadership has been a violation of the public trust.

“If there’s a grade lower than an F, that’s what she deserves,” the City College political science instructor said.

“The ACCJC has been involved in a litany of abuses,” he said. “It’s suppose to work

with colleges to improve the quality of education. Instead, it’s instilling a culture of fear across the state community college system.

Beno seems aware that many people feel that way.

“The use of the term ‘climate of fear’ often is expressive of people’s emotions, and those can be generated by news stories, by misinformation, or just by anxiety,” Beno told the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity last year.

“I would say it is true that our service as a gatekeeper for federal aid creates a pressure on institutions... The pressure is there, but it’s for the good... Meeting standards is good for the institutions and for the quality of education.”

In the fall of 2013, Beno asked colleagues, CEOs and other high-level business and school administrators from member institutions to write letters specifying “support or broad acceptance for ACCJC standards, policies, procedures and decisions.”

She forwarded the letters to the Depart-



ment of Education, which was in the midst of evaluating the commission for recertification. Though she received criticism for soliciting the letters, more than two dozen responded with praise for the commission.

California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice Harris wrote:

"I am extremely supportive of the continued authorization by the U.S. Department of Education for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges."

At the time, the state chancellor indicated that ACCJC utilized "collaborative teamwork, open dialogue, transparency, and effective communication."

Former City College interim chancellor Thelma Scott-Skillman also wrote in support of the commission's work, indicating City College would benefit from ACCJC's hard-line approach.

"The renewed effort of the college to utilize the accreditation standards as benchmarks is clearly transforming this institution," she said.

At a public meeting a year ago, City College's current Chancellor Arthur Tyler gave his verbal support to the accrediting commission for its recommendations "to improve the quality of instruction."

"I've been asked 'Was the process fair?' My response is, I haven't found any of the 356 discrepancies that were invalid," he said.

ACCJC supporters and critics are deeply divided. School administrators who enforce accreditation standards, and the accreditors themselves, seem to agree with Beno's approach. Critics, who are predominantly students, teachers and lawmakers, feel burdened by its stringent regulations that they say are ineffective.

Beno's heavy-handed enforcement approach hasn't eased the situation. In fact, it has irritated several lawmakers.

When state senators Jim Beall (D) and Jim Nielsen (R) requested documents for an audit of the ACCJC in August 2012, Beno's uncooperative response prompted Nielsen to speak out at a hearing on the state assembly floor last year.

"Senator Beall and I met with president Barbara Beno in my office," Nielsen said. "In all my career, in my thousands of meetings with agency individuals – representatives, secretaries, etc. – I have never dealt with a more arrogant, condescending and dismissive individual."

"That does not give us comfort that all is well in how they're (the ACCJC) treating

our California Community Colleges," he said. "That attitude being reflected by such a senior person raised huge red flags for me."

Beall also pointed out that Beno refused to work with legislators during the audit.

"Our view is that since she does not want to work with us, we will work around her," the state senator said.

California Federation of Teachers pres-

*'Beno should resign. The ACCJC has inconsistently imposed accreditation standards and their leadership should be changed.'*

– Assemblyman Phil Ting

ident Joshua Pechthalt spoke out last year after three lawsuits were filed against Beno's commission.

"The reckless actions of the agency and its president, Barbara Beno, have not only imperiled an education for 85,000 San Francisco students," he wrote, "but also diverted enormous amounts of time and money in all our community colleges away from instruction and toward 'compliance' with the ACCJC's unreasonable demands."

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Little is known of Beno, whose influence is far reaching. Her commission interprets and implements the Department of Education's goals with impunity. Its decisions are

not subject to review. It's unclear who Beno and the ACCJC answer to.

One City College dean guessed with a shrug, "God?"

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office does not seem to have authority over the ACCJC. The U.S. Department of Education certifies accrediting agencies, but has little if any power over Beno or the ACCJC's decisions.

As a private, non-profit organization, the commission's meetings are closed and its minutes are unavailable to the public. Its most significant decisions about colleges are made in private.

The California State Auditor recently reported that the commission is not subject to state or federal open-meeting laws. Issues concerning accreditation are considered confidential – though 84 percent of the schools it accredits are public institutions.

Compounding her agency's lack of transparency, Beno's distant relationship with the media has made her critics distrustful.

Repeated email and phone requests to her office for information and an interview with Etc. magazine were denied.

Her direct work phone number and email are unlisted. Located in Novato, a small suburb north of San Francisco, her office is miles away from the colleges that she and her agency serve.

The small amount of biographical information that is available about her is limited to a few paragraphs on the ACCJC website.

She earned a B.A. in History and her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D in Sociology from



Photo by James Fanucchi

▲ Barbara Beno listens to testimony in the case against the ACCJC, which she presides over.



Stony Brook University in New York.

Before joining the commission as president in August 2001, she served as commissioner for both the ACCJC and the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Beno also served as president of Vista Community College (now Berkeley City College) for 12 years, assistant chancellor of the San Mateo Community College District, research and planning director for the Peralta Community College District, and as a sociology instructor. Later, she chaired the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions from 2006 to 2009.

The ACCJC's website indicates that its president supervises, directs and controls its business and accreditation operations. According to Beno's non-profit organization's tax returns, she made \$317,000 in 2010.

The impact of her 19-member accrediting commission is far-reaching – affecting 2.3 million students throughout the state.

The sanctions imposed by the ACCJC can financially make or break a college. Without accreditation from her agency, colleges cannot receive federal funding.

Nearly half of California's 112 colleges reportedly were under sanction in 2012. In contrast, the national average is disproportionately lower – around six percent.

Although its region covers only California and the Pacific Islands, ACCJC accounted for 64 percent of all sanctions nationwide from June 2011 to June 2012.

Part of the pending lawsuit against ACCJC involves conflict of interest charges.

Her husband, Peter Crabtree, was one of the commission members who evaluated City College. As dean of Career and Technical Education at Oakland's Laney College, he represents a school whose enrollment could benefit from City College's closure.

"She violated the rules," said Congresswoman Jackie Speier, who indicated that Beno should not have allowed her husband on the review panel.

At a community forum in City College's Diego Rivera Theater last year, Speier was also critical of the commission Beno directs.

"I think the ACCJC has run amok. They have lost their vision – if they ever had one," the congresswoman said. "They are riddled with conflicts of interest and arbitrariness."

Although little is known about Beno, one thing is clear. If the decision made by her accrediting commission had not been chal-



Photo by James Farnuch

▲ *As the person in charge of the accrediting process for the state's 112 community colleges, critics charge that Barbara Beno has been particularly tough on City College.*

lenged in court, City College would already be shut down.

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When City College's closure appeared imminent last year, the San Francisco City Attorney's office filed suit on behalf of the People of the State of California.

The Superior Court lawsuit states that ACCJC has violated "nearly every federal regulation that guides it."

On the witness stand, Beno's restrained demeanor contrasted with her reputation.

She addressed Judge Curtis Karnow as "Sir" and responded in a soft voice to Deputy City Attorney Ronald Flynn's questions.

Dressed in a conservative black cardigan, skirt, and blue silk scarf, Beno's short blond hair framed a face with little trace of makeup. Her pearl earrings and wedding ring were the only jewelry she wore.

The 63-year-old smiled and adjusted her glasses while examining court documents during her testimony in October.

As the enforcer of the Department of Education's accreditation rules, Beno's approach is unbending and by-the-book. On the stand, she avoided answering directly by referring to her guidelines.

When Flynn asked Beno if ACCJC gave City College sufficient time to address additional accreditation deficiencies identified late in the process, she didn't respond specifically to the question.

Judge Karnow interrupted her.

"Ma'am, Ma'am, excuse me. Listen, I'll repeat the question. He's not actually asking you a question about a text. He's asking you

about what happened in the real world."

Beno quietly answered "no," City College was not given enough time.

The next day, Beno changed her testimony. She told the judge that City College had been given an appropriate amount of time.

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When the school's administrators needed to focus on how to deal with dramatic state budget cuts, the ACCJC's sanction diverted their attention and added to the college's financial burden.

The lawsuit argues that City College has been forced to drain funds from its limited budget to address the commission's demands. Employing consultants, filing reports and hosting evaluation teams adds up.

In addition, state funding – based on a school's number of full-time students – was affected when City College's enrollment dropped dramatically due to the sanction, and its resulting bad press.

"When you look at that in terms of dollars and cents," City College Chancellor Arthur Tyler reported last spring, it "probably means somewhere in the neighborhood of \$23 million to \$26 million in less funding."

This loss – coupled with draconian state budget cuts – has put tremendous pressure on City College, the largest community college in the state.

At the start of the accreditation crisis, in fiscal year 2011 to 2012, the college's annual budget estimated that state funding for enrollment would be reduced by \$13.38 million.

The college's financial shortfalls led to the City College Parcel Tax initiative



(Proposition A), which voters passed by a 73 percent margin in 2012. Prop A noted at the time that the state had reduced funding to the school by more than \$53 million over a three-year period.

The state Community College Board determined that City College's current revenues are inadequate to fund community college education in San Francisco.

The sanction and press speculation have cost City College about \$6.5 million, according to the lawsuit complaint.

Since public funds are awarded only to accredited institutions, City College would be forced to close its doors if ACCJC's decision is upheld in court.

The school's closure would impact about 75,000 students and nearly 2,500 faculty and staff on 11 campuses throughout the city. The college contributes about \$300 million to the local economy every year, according to a recent study by San Francisco's Budget and Legislative Analyst.

City College would be the largest U.S. institution ever to lose its accreditation, the American Association of University Professors reported last year.

Threat of closure caused by the ACCJC sanction has contributed to significant drops in enrollment. Between 2012 and 2013, enrollment dropped by 15 percent, according to the college's enrollment report. This semester alone, statistics from the City College Chancellor's Office indicate that more than 170 classes were cancelled.

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Despite repeated requests from the school's administration and supporters to extend the school's deadline for meeting ACCJC's requirements to lift its sanction, Beno refused, stating her agency was legally prevented from doing so.

But the U.S. Department of Education confirmed earlier this year that the ACCJC could legally grant City College a good-cause extension of accreditation.

This contradictory finding prompted an angry response from Congresswomen Nancy Pelosi, Jackie Speier, and Anna Eshoo, who viewed the ACCJC's continued refusal to grant the college more time as an indicator.

In a joint news release, the congresswomen questioned the commission's ability to execute the law.

They indicated change was needed regarding both the agency's leadership and its very existence as a valid accrediting body.

Furthermore, in the extensive audit

commissioned by senators Nielsen and Beall, the State Auditor's office found that ACCJC was inconsistent in applying its accreditation process, allowing more than a dozen other institutions two years to come into compliance, while refusing to give City College more than one year.

In response, ACCJC released a statement this summer claiming the State Auditor's Office "did not have the authority to audit the ACCJC" because it is a private nonprofit organization. Their "lack of expertise in accreditation regulations and practices created difficulties," the press release said.

This sort of response has contributed to the agency's uncooperative reputation.

In the past few years, Beno's organization has received votes of "no confidence" by several community college organizations.

The California Community College Independents, a coalition representing a quarter of the state's community college faculty,

*'I think the ACCJC has run amok. They have lost their vision – if they ever had one. They are riddled with conflicts of interest and arbitrariness.'*

– Congresswoman Jackie Speier

gave ACCJC a unanimous vote of "no confidence" in 2010.

The coalition charged that ACCJC's accreditation process "has become an instrument of punishment rather than improvement" with sanctions too often imposed over issues "not directly related to student benefit or improved instruction."

After filing its lawsuit, the San Francisco City Attorney's office sent out a news release last year interpreting the accrediting commission's motive.

"The ACCJC has been a leading advocate to dramatically reshape the mission of California's community colleges," it said.

New restrictive policies it has put in place focus on degree completion, eliminating many vocational, remedial and non-credit offerings.

According to the lawsuit, the ACCJC's political agenda echoes the philosophy of conservative advocacy organizations, for-profit colleges and corporate student lenders.

This, the lawsuit states, "represents a significant departure from the abiding 'open access' mission pursued by San Francisco's Community College District since it was first established."

To help demystify the process of college accreditation, Congresswoman Speier invited the ACCJC president to a Save CCSF Rally last fall. Speier told the audience that Beno refused to participate.

"Her lack of responsiveness is emblematic of the problem," she told the booing crowd.

Beno's elusive behavior adds to the growing dissatisfaction with her performance.

"I don't care for what she's done, but the key problems tend not to be individuals, but systems," Assemblyman Tom Ammiano said. "The way ACCJC is currently set up is a problem. You can ask almost any community college administrator in California. We need to see ACCJC reformed, or removed from oversight."

"I doubt she will resign," Ammiano said of Beno. "That doesn't seem to be her modus operandi. She is proud of what she's doing."

Assemblyman Ting thinks Beno should resign, but said the problem is systemic.

"We need an accreditor focused on students and solutions to conclude City College's accreditation process. We need to protect precious education dollars from being squandered."

Congresswoman Speier agrees.

"This is a truly unaccountable agency – unaccountable to anyone," she said at the City College forum last year. "This is an institutional problem, meaning we have to take a look at accreditation generally."

Rafael Mandelman, a member of the deactivated City College Board of Trustees, once supported the ACCJC but has since had an epiphany.

"I think they are incredibly stubborn, petty and vindictive people," he said. "They're an accrediting commission gone wrong."

"I don't think it's just Beno, though," he said. "It's not just about removing one person, it's about changing the approach."

Co-founder of the Save CCSF Coalition and long-time critic Wendy Kaufmyn insists there's a political agenda.

"The ACCJC is just a tool in the education reform agenda," she said. "Without it they will just try other ways to downsize public education."

"Barbara Beno created the crisis in the first place," said the engineering instructor. "Of course she should resign." ▢



# Twenty years after 'The Trial of the Century'

Aging City College alumnus O.J. Simpson  
resides in a 8-by-10-foot cell in Lovelock

*By Elisabetta Silvestro*



*Illustration by Zoheb Bhutia*

*Zoheb Bhutia*



Twenty years ago this month marked the beginning of the most gripping and racially-tense trial in American history.

The televised spectacle, called “The Trial of the Century,” had all the elements of a soap opera.

The star of the drama was none other than O.J. Simpson, City College’s most famous – and now most infamous – alumnus.

Millions of people watched the case unfold from their homes, offices, bars, gyms and hair salons.

Everyone was interested in the outcome and everyone had an opinion. The trial racially divided the nation and was the dawn of reality TV.

The official name of the trial was “The People v. O.J. Simpson.”

The former football hall of famer, actor and sportscaster, who rose from the Potrero Hill housing projects to the most exclusive neighborhood in Los Angeles, was charged with viciously murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Simpson had it all – success, looks, money, charm, talent. After his remarkable football career was over, his notoriety contributed to his stardom. He got remarried to a beautiful woman, had two more kids, and landed contracts with NBC and Hertz.

Overnight his life changed. As the primary suspect of the double homicide, he had to prove to the jury – and to the world – that he wasn’t a brutal murderer. He proclaimed his innocence and hired the best lawyers money could buy.

The legal maneuvers of his attorneys, broadcast on live TV and now available online, reveal why they were called the “Dream Team.”

And naturally, his team won.

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On the same date, 13 years later, another verdict was rendered. This time, Simpson was found guilty and convicted for armed robbery and kidnapping on Oct. 3, 2008. He was sentenced to serve nine to 33 years.

With armed accomplices, “The Naked Gun” star robbed two sports memorabilia dealers at the Palace Station Hotel in Las Vegas in 2007.

Simpson claims he was just reclaiming his property, which had previously been stolen from him.

Among the stolen mementos were his Hall of Fame certificate and a picture of him with former FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover.

“You have the right to get your stuff,” Simpson said during his request for a new trial last year. “They belong to my family, they belong to my kids, they belong to us.”

After his 12-count sentence, the aging former City College football star was thrown into a 8-by-10-foot, two-man cell at Lovelock Correctional Center, in the middle of Nevada.

Although Simpson will be eligible for parole in three years – when he is 70 – he has repeatedly contested the decision.

Days after the verdict he filed a motion for a new trial. It was denied.

The following year, he appealed the judge’s decision, saying the trial was “fundamentally unfair.” His appeal was dismissed “without merit.”

In 2012, he requested a new trial, claiming that he was misled by his attorney, Yale Galanter, who led him to believe he was

*After being sentenced for armed robbery and kidnapping, the aging former City College football star was thrown into a 8-by-10-foot cell at Lovelock prison.*

acting lawfully when he walked into that hotel room.

That request was also denied.

He filed another appeal this past June claiming Galanter had a conflict of interest and therefore provided an inadequate defense.

In October, Simpson’s defense filed their final brief, concluding that their defendant’s Sixth Amendment rights had been violated because his attorney failed to provide adequate counsel.

The Supreme Court of Nevada can issue a ruling or decide to hear oral arguments. Their decision is pending.

Although Simpson has obtained parole on some of his charges, he won’t be eligible for full parole until 2017.

During his July 2013 hearing, Simpson told the parole board that in some ways he felt lucky to have ended up in Lovelock. It’s a place where there is little stress or gang activity, and he feels respected by other inmates, whom he claims come to him for advice.

Despite all of his legal setbacks—and shocking National Enquirer headlines—Simpson told the board he was trying to be “the best inmate Lovelock has ever had.”

“I’ve not had any incidents despite all the stories in the tabloids,” he said.

\* \* \*

During “The Trial of the Century,” Simpson created a media frenzy. He constantly made the covers of newspapers and magazines, and was the subject of numerous TV specials.

As time passed, though, interest faded. But not for the tabloids, where every bit of gossip still makes the front page.

“‘I DID IT, SO WHAT!’ DYING O.J. CONFESSES!” shouted the headline over a gloating cover photo of him in November’s National Enquirer.

In October, the cover of the Enquirer erroneously proclaimed: “O.J. 4 WEEKS TO LIVE!”

Months earlier, the tabloid’s front page announced: “O.J. BRAIN CANCER!”

\* \* \*

Nobody really knows exactly what happened that Sunday night in Brentwood, except the killer.

This much is known. Nicole Brown Simpson had dinner with her family at Mezzaluna restaurant, went home to her Bundy Drive condominium and put her children to bed.

That night, Simpson went to McDonald’s with Kato Kaelin, a 35-year-old aspiring actor who lived in a guesthouse at his estate, a 6-minute drive from Brown’s home.

Meanwhile, Ronald Goldman was ending his shift when the restaurant received a call from Brown’s mother who had forgotten her glasses there. Goldman, a friend of Brown’s, offered to bring them to her house.

What happened next is shrouded in mystery.

Between 10 and 11 p.m. on that June 12 night 20 years ago, Brown and Goldman were brutally stabbed to death in the enclosed walkway leading to Brown’s front door.

Brown, 35, was found in a pool of blood with multiple stab wounds to her neck, scalp and hands. Her throat was slashed so violently that she was nearly decapitated.

Goldman, 25, was found with 30 knife wounds to his neck, chest, abdomen, left thigh, scalp, face and left hand.

Kaelin testified that he and Simpson returned home from McDonald’s around 9:30 p.m. that night.



Simpson left again around 11 p.m., according to his chauffeur, who said he picked him up and brought him to the airport.

Between 9:30 and 11 p.m., when the murders reportedly occurred, Simpson said he was home alone packing for his trip to Chicago.

A trail of blood led from the crime scene to Simpson's house. And then there was the bloodstained glove found in his backyard. Motive, opportunity and circumstantial evidence made him the primary suspect.

\* \* \*

Simpson left the night of the killings on a promotional trip to Chicago. He was called back by the Los Angeles Police Department for questioning.

Four days later, he was charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

Incredible as it seems, the police agreed to allow him to turn himself in.

He was supposed to appear at 11 o'clock. By noon, Simpson had still not appeared.

LAPD Cmdr. David Gascon declared Simpson a fugitive of justice at a news conference on TV that afternoon.

"The Los Angeles Police Department right now is actively searching for Mr. Simpson," he said.

A manhunt ensued. And 95 million people tuned in to watch it unfold on TV.

Later that evening, Simpson and his longtime friend and City College teammate

*'I did not, could not and would not have committed this crime,' Simpson told the judge before he was acquitted.*

Al Cowlings were spotted heading south on Interstate 5 in a white Ford Bronco.

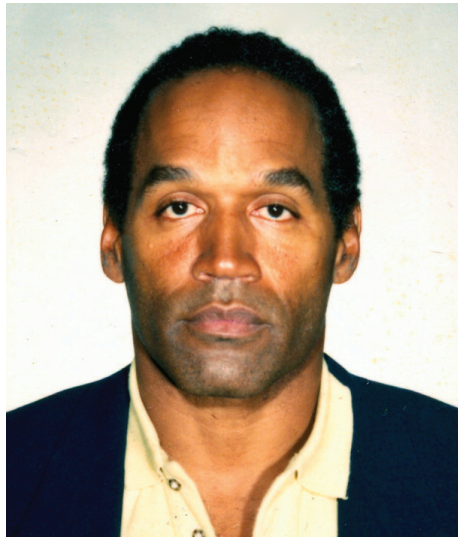
Simpson had a gun to his own head, as 20 police cars followed in pursuit, blocking traffic on the freeway during rush hour.

The slow-speed chase mesmerized the public for two hours. It was bizarre. Thousands of people pulled over to cheer and wave along the Santa Ana and San Diego freeways.

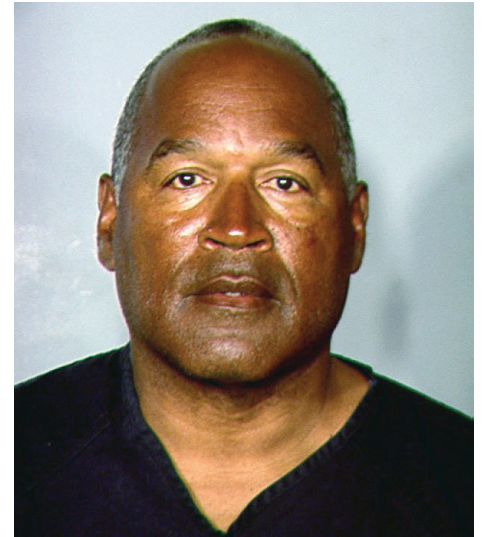
The chase ended at Simpson's house in Los Angeles. After another suspenseful hour in his driveway—while he still held a gun to his head—Simpson finally surrendered.

\* \* \*

After preliminary hearings the following



▲ O.J. Simpson was booked as a suspect in the murder of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, in 1994. Twenty years later he was appealing a robbery and kidnapping conviction.



month, in July 1994, the judge ruled there was enough evidence to go to trial.

At his arraignment Simpson pleaded "absolutely, 100 percent, not guilty."

Prosecutor Marcia Clark was convinced he was guilty.

"Two people have been brutally murdered and the evidence consistently would point to only one person as their murderer," she said in her opening statement.

For the next nine months, while the jury was sequestered, the court met almost every day to hear evidence and interview witnesses.

Outside, reporters from all over the world gathered. Simpson's supporters and detractors held signs and chanted.

It was the first major case where DNA evidence played a key role. The prosecution built its case for 164 days, calling 67 witnesses to the stand. Their case was built around the blood evidence—the trail of blood leading from the victims to Simpson's driveway and front door. And two bloodstained gloves—one found next to Goldman's body, and its match found on Simpson's property.

In addition, the prosecution felt that Simpson had both the motive and opportunity to commit the crime.

He had a history of spousal abuse and lacked an alibi that could be corroborated.

But Simpson's defense team turned the prosecution's case upside down. Their expert witnesses cast doubt on LAPD's handling of evidence, and suggested it might have been planted.

Things started unraveling for the prosecution when homicide Detective Mark

Fuhrman denied under oath that he had ever used the "N" word. Several witnesses testified that he repeatedly used racial slurs, including the "N" word, during his career.

When asked if he had planted or manufactured any evidence during the investigation, he invoked the Fifth Amendment.

Suddenly, the focus of the case shifted from O.J. Simpson to the LAPD.

When asked by the prosecution to try on the Bloomingdale's gloves that were used to commit the murders, Simpson struggled. It appeared they didn't fit.

"If it doesn't fit, you must acquit," defense attorney Johnnie Cochran said during his closing argument.

Jurors in the 9-month-long murder trial—the longest in California history—deliberated only four hours.

They could not find him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

When his not-guilty verdict was read on Oct. 3, 1995, Simpson hugged his attorneys and mouthed "Thank you" to the jury.

Simpson's attorneys advised him not to testify during the trial.

While the jury deliberated on a verdict, however, Simpson spoke to the judge.

"I did not, could not and would not have committed this crime," he said.

\* \* \*

A year after the murders, the Goldman and Brown families filed two civil suits against Simpson for the wrongful deaths of Ronald Goldman and Nicole Brown. They were seeking punitive and compensatory damages.

The civil trial that followed lasted four



months, was not televised, and therefore was not as much of a media circus.

Based on the preponderance of evidence, Simpson was found guilty in February 1997. He was ordered to pay a total of \$33.5 million in damages to both victims' families.

"We finally have justice for Ron and Nicole," Fred Goldman, Ronald's father, said after the verdict was announced. "Our family is grateful for a verdict of responsibility."

After the two trials, Simpson lost his Brentwood estate to pay his legal bills.

When the civil trial was over he moved to Florida with his and Nicole's children – Sydney, 12, and Justin, 9.

Simpson told CNN during a 1997 interview he refused to work to pay Fred Goldman, and that he would live off his pension, which was protected from the civil suit judgment.

Fred Goldman's lawyers continue to pursue seizure of everything Simpson owns. They obtained valuable sports memorabilia and the rights to his book "If I Did It: Here's How It Happened" (2007), a hypothetical account of how the murders were committed.

"I looked down and saw her on the ground curled up in a fetal position at the base of the stairs, not moving," Simpson wrote. "Goldman was only a few feet away, slumped against the bars of the fence. Both he and Nicole were lying in giant pools of blood. I had never seen so much blood in my life."

Simpson wrote these words as fiction. But if this whole 20-year saga were fiction, it would still be hard to believe. □



▲ Simpson created a media frenzy during the "Trial of the Century." As time passed, interest faded – but not for the tabloids.

## O.J.: THE EARLY YEARS

Born in San Francisco in 1947, Orenthal James Simpson and his three siblings were raised by their mother in the Potrero Hill housing project.

After graduating from Galileo High School, he played football for the Rams for two years at City College, where he shattered school and league records in rushing.

"He was a superb athlete," said Rams coach George Rush, who was Simpson's teammate in '66. "Lots of fun and a good teammate."

"Some people forget where they come from," said Rush, who tires of talking about O.J. Simpson.

In '67, "O.J." transferred to University of Southern California, where he played for the Trojans and was nicknamed "The Juice."

That same year, Simpson married his 18-year-old high school sweetheart Marguerite Whitley.

In '68, he won the Heisman Trophy, the most prestigious award in college football, and had his first child, Arnelle.

The following year, he was picked first in the NFL draft by New York's Buffalo Bills.

At 22, he landed his first sports commentator jobs and spokesman contracts.

In 1970 his second son, Jason, was born.

During his eight years as running back for the Buffalo Bills, he was named American Football Conference's Player of the Year in '72, '73 and '75, and won the Pro Bowl Most Valuable Player trophy in 1973.

That same year, he broke Jim Brown's 10-year record for single-season rushing yards by gaining 2,003 yards, and was named the NFL's Most Valuable Player.

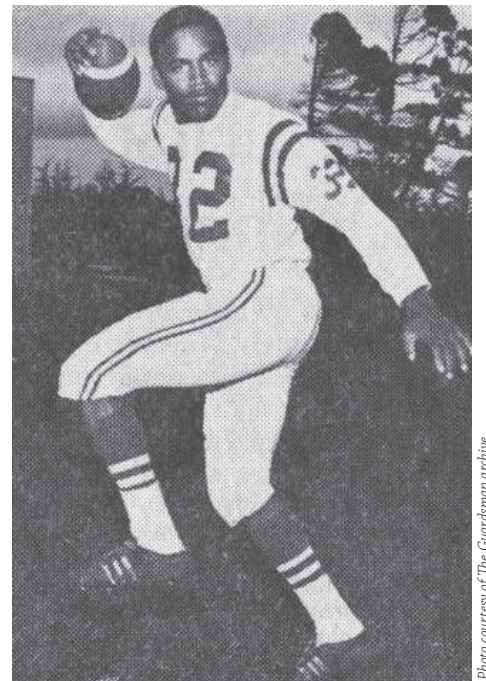
He left the Buffalo Bills in 1977. The same year he had his third child, Aaren, with his wife Marguerite, and met an 18-year-old waitress in Beverly Hills named Nicole Brown.

In 1978, he returned to his hometown to play for the San Francisco 49ers at Candlestick Park, where he finished his last two seasons in professional football.

He retired in 1979 at the age of 32, with a career record 11,236 yards rushing – and a \$4 million pension.

But his personal life began to fall apart. Simpson and Marguerite Whitley filed for divorce. During the divorce, their 23-month-old daughter drowned in their Brentwood estate's pool.

Simpson and Nicole Brown were seeing



▲ Simpson, who played for the Rams in '65 and '66, was a junior college All-American.

each other regularly at that point. But the couple didn't marry until seven years later, when they decided to have children.

While Brown was pregnant, Simpson was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Eight and a half months after the wedding, their first child, Sydney, was born.

Simpson's acting and anchorman roles increased after he retired from football. For nearly 20 years, he served as spokesman for Hertz rental cars. He also was a NBC sports commentator for almost 10 years, and appeared in many films including the three "Naked Gun" comedies.

Simpson and Brown's second child, Justin, was born in 1988.

Brown described how Simpson often mistreated her. He was critical of her habits, and her appearance during pregnancy, and he was physically abusive and unfaithful.

During their stormy relationship, Brown called the police about 10 times.

"He's going to kill me! He's going to kill me!" she reportedly screamed when the officers arrived at their home on New Year's Eve in 1989.

Simpson pleaded no contest to spousal battery, was fined \$700 and ordered to undergo counseling.

In 1992 Brown filed for divorce. They started dating again the following year, but decided it was over in May 1994 – a week and a half before her murder. □





Photo by James Panucchi

▲ City College fashion instructor and freeway flyer Judy Jackson also teaches at Santa Rosa Junior College and Redwood City's Cañada College.

# CITY'S FREEWAY FLYERS

## The plight of part-time faculty

By Mary Strobe

Cesar Chavez once compared “freeway flyers” to migrant farm workers. Like those laboring in the fields, these adjunct faculty are poorly paid, constantly commuting between jobs, and enjoy little security. Freeway flyers carry the bulk of the teaching load at City College and at community colleges throughout the state and nation.

They go by different names: road scholars, adjuncts, part-timers, non-tenured faculty, lecturers, contingents.

In New York City, they're called “subway schleppers.”

Their many nicknames reflect their uneasy status in the halls of academia. They teach the same classes that tenured professors do, but don't receive the same rate of pay and benefits. Increasingly, they subsidize higher education.

Many travel from college to college, their textbooks, school supplies, laptops, boxes of course materials and class files piled in the trunks of their cars. You may find them correcting papers in traffic.

Once they get to campus, they have to search for parking, transfer course materials from car to classroom, and race to class.

Because they are constantly on the road – some commute over 100 miles a day – students have a hard time reaching them.

And, torn between colleges, they have a hard time reaching students.

Without office space, their office hours are usually squeezed in before or after class.

Their hectic schedules, reliance upon cell phones and full college email inboxes are further obstacles.

“As a part-timer, you have your foot in two camps,” said Kathleen Perry, who lives in Capitola. She has taught photography classes at City College since 1988 – and at

UC Santa Cruz since 1998. Her once-a-week round-trip commute covers 160 miles.

“You have your place on campus, but you're an outsider,” she said.

With drastic cuts in public funding, two-year institutions have cut costs by hiring more contingent faculty.

In California, part-time teachers make up 70 percent of community college faculty, according to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. That corresponds to the national average, which confirms that 280,000 of the nation's 400,000 public community college professors are part-time.

At City College, adjuncts represent 56 percent of the school's 1,571 professors.

“Community colleges rely on part-time, ‘contingent’ instructors to teach 58 percent of their courses,” according to a new report from the Center for Community College Student Engagement.

“Part-time instructors typically earn less and receive little if anything by way of benefits such as health insurance,” the report said.

City College's freeway flyers get only 86 percent of a tenured teacher's salary for each in-class hour, according to the American



Federation of Teachers union, AFT 2121.

"The face of contingency is now the majority," said Alisa Messer, a former freeway flyer who chairs the English Department and serves as political director of AFT 2121.

It hasn't always been this way. In the 1970s, about 80 percent of faculty was tenure-tracked. That's when the practice of hiring mostly adjunct faculty started in the community college system. The cost-cutting measure has spread across all levels of higher education.

"It's gone in the direction of big business," Peter Brown, a professor at SUNY New Paltz and adjunct advocate, said in a PBS News Hour interview.

Longtime City College freeway flyer Tom Graham, who commutes an hour each way from Petaluma, agrees.

"It's no different than the way Wal-Mart treats their employees," the journalism professor said.

Between 1970 and 2008, adjunct pay has plummeted 49 percent, while college presidents' salaries have gone up 35 percent, Brown said.

The full-time / part-time system has created an academic caste system, with adjuncts treated as the underclass, according to a story in the January-February 2014 issue of *Academe* magazine.

A full load for tenured faculty at City College is four classes. With their teaching load spread between schools, many part-timers here teach a full-time load or more —without benefits.

"To earn a living as a part-timer, you have to work more than what adds up to a full-time job," Perry said.

Freeway fliers sometimes spend as much time on the road as they do teaching.

"I lost tons of time commuting," Messer said of her far-flung schedule as a freeway flyer. It's time she could have spent with students or preparing for class.

Graham, who teaches at College of Marin and City College, drives 75 miles round trip three times a week from Sonoma County to the Ocean Campus —for a single three-hour class.

"Teaching a one-hour class three times a week is a lot different than teaching a three-hour class once a week," Graham said. "I commute more than six hours a week for just that one class."

"That triples my gas expenses and takes away time I could be spending with

my students —or my family."

Perry said she likes driving. Her 78-mile commute gives her an opportunity to listen to podcasts and NPR. Or call her mother on a hands-free phone.

"I don't just teach my class, do one office hour, and leave," Perry said from her sparsely furnished, shared office in the Arts Building on the main campus.

One semester, Perry routinely stayed after class to draw pictograms for photography students with limited English skills.

Perry may not be reimbursed for those hours, but she's willing to make the sacrifice. She loves the diversity at City College.

"It makes for a fertile ground for talking about photography," she said.

Gas and other extra expenses eat away at a freeway flyer's already-low paycheck. Dry erase pens, paper clips, photocopies and cords for "smart classrooms" also add up.

"I wish I had an RV to put all my teaching supplies in," Perry said. Living so far from campus forces her to stay organized—anything forgotten at home can and will negatively impact a teacher's lesson plan.

Meeting outside of class with students often means a special trip into the city.

"I do consider my car to be my office," said Judy Jackson, a City College fashion instructor and veteran freeway flyer, who also teaches at Santa Rosa Junior College and Redwood City's Cañada College.

"It's pretty unusual for me to even have a desk. Every school says they're supposed to give you a space, but it's not always usable or close by."

Like many freeway flyers, Jackson holds office hours in the classroom. But fashion

courses at City take place on different campuses around the city, making it even more difficult to structure a schedule around a specific place.

"It's really intense," Messer said. Juggling a packed schedule, financial concerns and a limited amount of time to devote to students takes a physical and psychological toll.

"No one can do their best work under those circumstances," Messer said.

After becoming a tenured faculty member, Messer felt like a real part of the college community. Running into students during the day on campus made a big difference.

Perry understands how students can feel isolated from the college community. Students perform better when involved in campus activities. So do teachers.

"People come from all over the place and can feel unmoored," she said. In her classes, students are expected to know each other's names and study together.

"Not everything just happens in a classroom," Messer said.

Not all adjuncts are freeway flyers. Unlike tenured professors, part-time faculty are often professionals sharing their real-world experience. At City College, where practical, career-driven education is emphasized, students can benefit from a teacher's professional experience.

But whether it's appropriate for part-timers to make up the bulk of an academic faculty raises concerns about a school's commitment to education.

"What once constituted an occasional feature of a college's or university's faculty—a professional musician teaching a



Photo by James Fenucci

▲ Part-time instructor Kathleen Perry commutes 160 miles round trip between Santa Cruz and San Francisco for her photography classes.





Photo by James Fenucci

▲ The back of adjunct professor Judy Jackson's car doubles as her storage locker.

part-time violin course, a practicing attorney offering an evening course in the philosophy of law, or a faculty member choosing to teach part-time to accommodate family responsibilities—has become the norm rather than the exception,” according to an article in *Academe* magazine.

Working at more than one school can have its benefits, though.

Perry's knowledge of the UC system as well as San Francisco's Community College District is especially helpful for transfer students integrating into a four-year college. She feels better equipped to counsel students at City College who plan to apply to Santa Cruz or other UCs.

With classes spread all over the map, freeway flyers must quickly adapt to new students or courses they don't regularly instruct. For Jackson, who teaches a range of 22 different classes across three colleges, it means constantly updating her own lesson plans and learning new materials.

“I always tell people, I love what I do for a living, but I don't like the way I have to do it,” she said.

Twenty-five years ago, the California legislature and community college board of governors approved AB 1725 to ensure a 75 percent ratio of tenure-tracked teachers. Considered a mechanism to involve faculty in the creation of college policies, it was never fully implemented. The UC system has managed to skirt around it, while many institutions simply pay fines to avoid the law.

“The funds aren't there” to pay that number of full-time faculty, Messer said.

College administrations are rarely eager to share numbers about part-time faculty.

“Throughout the country, college administrators, often with the collaboration of academic unions, have gone to great lengths to keep their increasing numbers of adjunct faculty secret from students, parents, legislators, accreditors, foundations and the public,” according to Keith Hoeller, an adjunct at Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash.

In their review of City College, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges did not make a fuss about the pay and treatment of adjunct professors. In fact, their report indicated that there were too many full-timers at City. But they did compel part-time faculty members to participate in curricular planning, student learning outcomes and faculty evaluations.

“Colleges have been telling us they don't have the money to pay part-time faculty to do this. Our response has been that they must do it,” ACCJC President Barbara Beno told the *Chronicle of Higher Education* in 2012.

For a huge college like City, managing an army of part-timers is costly. And a lot of bureaucratic work.

“It's ironic that the community college system relies so heavily on part-timers, because it's structured for full timers,” Jackson said. “It assumes your sense of place, your ability to stick around.”

Many teachers at City say the accreditation crisis has simply meant more work for them.

“They're demanding more of us,” Graham said. Many teachers find the new emphasis on student learning outcomes an extra

burden. Teachers are also under pressure to create “attendance rosters,” which estimate how much time students spend on school-work outside of class.

This spring, Mary Faith Cerasoli staged a one-woman protest against the working conditions of adjuncts in Albany, NY. Cerasoli, who is homeless and finds little hope of overcoming mounting health care debts on a \$22,000 annual salary, sparked a social media following when adjuncts across the country tweeted photos of themselves holding signs that read, “I am Mary Faith.”

“Adjuncting is the bridge to nowhere,” she told PBS. “I would never recommend becoming a professor to my students.”

After 38 years of freeway flying, Jackson would like nothing more than to teach full time. The fashion instructor has seen some progress for part-timers. Thanks to the teachers union, she now has a retirement plan.

But she still makes less than a tenured teacher. She loses health benefits every summer and is forced to rely on unemployment. She's laid off during the winter holiday season. And she's never had a paid vacation.

Freeway flyers may cobble together enough jobs to work the equivalent of a full-time schedule, but that doesn't mean they enjoy the same benefits.

“To make a living,” she said, “I have to keep moving.” ▢



Photo by James Fenucci

▲ English teacher Alisa Messer, now a full-timer, remembers the struggles of freeway flying.



# Spring 2015 Journalism Classes

Classes start January 12, 2015. To register for courses go to [www.ccsf.edu/schedule](http://www.ccsf.edu/schedule)  
For more information call (415) 239-3446.

## Jour 19: Contemporary News Media

35826 001 Lec. T R 09:40 – 10:55 a.m.

3.0 units

Multi-Use Building (MUB)/Rm. 180 Graham

Introduction to modern mass communication, with an emphasis on development of news media, analysis of the credibility of the media and its impact on daily life. *CSU/UC/CAN*

## Jour 21: News Writing and Reporting

35827 001 Lec. M W F 10:10 – 11:00 a.m.

3.0 units

BNGL 715 Gonzales

36339 551 Lec. R 6:30 – 9:20 p.m.

Mission Campus/Rm. 218

Rochmis

Techniques of newspaper reporting, developing and writing a news story, training in information gathering and interviewing sources.

*PREREQ.: ENGL 93 or 94 or placement in ENGL 96*

## Jour 22: Feature Writing

35828 551 Lec. T 6:30 – 9:20 p.m.

3.0 units

Mission Campus/Rm. 217

Rochmis

Fundamentals in feature writing for magazines and newspapers with special emphasis on profile and interpretive news features. Practical experience in interview and in-depth research techniques. Training in how to write a freelance story for publication. *PREREQ: ENGL 93 or 94 or PLACEMENT IN ENGL 96. CSU.*

## Jour 23: Electronic Copy Editing

35829 551 Lec. W 6:30 – 9:20 p.m.

3.0 units

Mission Campus/Rm. 218

Rochmis

This course is for writers, working editors, and those considering a career in editing or copyediting. Students learn to edit newspapers, magazines and web site articles for accuracy, style and organization. The writer-editor relationship, and ways to keep it healthy, is emphasized throughout the course.

*PREREQ: JOUR 21, JOUR 22 CSU*

## Jour 25: Editorial Management

35830 001 Lec. M W F 12:10 – 1:00 p.m.

3.0 units

BNGL 615

Gonzales

An advanced journalism course that trains prospective print editors on all aspects of operating a publication, including developing a publishing schedule, creating story assignments, coordinating a writing staff, designing a page, the business side of print journalism, and working with other editors and printers. Students gain experience through The Guardsman campus newspaper. *COREQ: JOUR 24*

## Jour 26: Fundamentals of Public Relations

36340 001 Lec. T R 11:10-12:25 p.m.

3.0 units

Multi-Use Building (MUB)/Rm. 180

Graham

Prepares students to create a public relations campaign which includes writing media releases, "pitch" letters, public service announcements, managing media outlets, coordinating mailings and designing leaflets and posters, as well as setting up news conferences. Special attention given to in-house public relations duties for corporate and non-profit entities. *ADVISE: JOUR 24*

## Jour 29: Magazine Editing & Production

31449 551 L/L T 6:30 – 8:20 p.m.

3.0 units

Mission Campus/Rm. 218

Graham

Students will study the editorial, business, graphic, and production skills required for publishing Etc., the campus magazine. Course is appropriate for students interested in creative writing, editing, photography, graphic arts, business, and journalism. *PREREQ: JOUR 21 & JOUR 22. CSU*

## Jour 31: Internship Experience

35832 001 Exp HOURS ARR

2.0 units

Gonzales

Supervised on-campus or off-campus employment in a branch of journalism or a closely allied field. *COREQ: JOUR 24*

## Jour 36: Advanced Reporting

35833 551 Lec. M 6:30 – 9:20 p.m.

3.0 units

Mission Campus/Rm. 217

Gonzales

The course introduces advanced concepts of news gathering, interviewing and writing with an emphasis on investigative reporting. Extensive research, interviewing, meeting coverage and writing involved. Students will improve and expand their news-gathering and writing skills. *COREQ: JOUR 21*

## Jour 37: Intro to Photojournalism

36341 001 Lec. T R 9:40 – 10:55 p.m.

3.0 units

BNGL 615

Lifland

34104 552 Lec. W 6:30 – 9:20 p.m.

Mission Campus/Rm. 217

Lifland

Emphasis on concepts of news and feature photography. Must have an SLR camera. Digital SLR preferred. Most assignments involve taking pictures of people, telling stories and conveying information. *ADVISE: PHOTO 51 OR EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE. CSU*





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